

Claims:

1. A method of restoring an operational state of a computer entity, said computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

a primary operating system capable of running said computer entity;

a secondary operating system capable of rebuilding said primary operating system; and

a copy of said primary operating system in an as manufactured state, stored on said data storage device;

said method comprising the steps of:

booting said computer entity to operate from said secondary operating system; and

under control of said secondary operating system, rebuilding said primary operating system from said copy of said primary operating system.

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

erasing said primary operating system prior to rebuilding said primary operating system from said copy of said primary operating system.

3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

restoring configuration settings of said computer entity from configuration data stored in a partition of said data storage device separate to said primary operating system and secondary operating system.

5 4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said configuration data comprises data describing one or more application settings for running an application on said computer entity.

10 5. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said configuration data comprises data selected from the set:

15 a network configuration data describing a networking configuration of the computer entity;

20 an administration security data describing administration security settings applied to the computer entity;

25 an installed user data describing installed users on the computer entity;

30 a user settings data describing individual settings for at least one installed user on the computer entity; and

 a back-up schedule data describing a back-up schedule for backing up data of said computer entity.

 6. The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of applying a CHECKsum to said configuration data prior to storing said configuration data in its said partition.

35 7. The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the step of:

checking said configuration data for corruption, prior to restoring said configuration settings

8. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

restoring data describing default application settings used by at least one application program of said computer entity.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

deleting an application data generated by at least one application program of said computer entity.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said boot of said secondary operating system is activated automatically under conditions selected from the following set:

a failure of said primary operating system;

a failure of a boot from a partition of said data storage device containing said primary operating system.

11. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

reading a plurality of settings flags to determine whether a rebuild of said primary operating system is triggered with application data delete or with application data preserved.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

resetting said computer entity by rebooting from said secondary operating system; and

deleting application data stored on a data storage device of said computer entities; and

5 recreating default application data on said data storage device.

13. The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of recreating default databases on said data storage device.

10 14. A computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device;

15 a primary operating system capable of running said computer entity;

a secondary operating system capable of rebuilding said primary operating system during a failure of said primary operating system;

20 a copy of said primary operating system in an as manufactured state; and.

Configuration data describing a configuration of said computer entity.

25 15. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, wherein:

said primary operating system is stored in a first partition area of said data storage device;

30 said secondary operating system is stored in a second partition area of said data storage device;

said copy of said primary operating system is stored in a third partition area of said data storage device; and

5 said configuration data is stored in a fourth partition area of said data storage device.

16. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said configuration data comprises data selected from the set:

10 a network configuration data describing a networking configuration of the computer entity;

15 an administration security data describing administration security settings applied to the computer entity;

15 an installed user data describing installed users on the computer entity;

20 a user settings data describing individual settings for at least one installed user on the computer entity; and

20 a back-up schedule data describing a back-up schedule for backing up data of said computer entity.

25 17. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising an administration interface configured to allow a manually activated trigger of a rebuild of said primary operating system.

30 18. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, comprising an automatic trigger operable to detect when a fault occurs in said primary operating system, and upon detecting a fault in said primary operating system, to trigger a boot from said secondary operating system.

19. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said data storage device comprises at least one disk drive.

20. The computer entity as claimed in Claim 14, which is devoid of a user console running directly from a said operating system of said computer entity.

21. A method of running a computer entity, said computer entity comprising:

a data storage device divided into a plurality of partition areas;

a primary operating system stored on a first said partition area;

a secondary operating system stored on a second said partition area;

said method comprising the steps of:

storing a back up copy of said operating system on a third said partition area.

22. The method as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising the step of automatically updating configuration data stored in a fourth partition area of said data storage device.

23. The method as claimed in Claim 23, wherein said configuration data comprises:

a network configuration data describing a networking configuration of the computer entity;

an administration security data describing administration security settings applied to the computer entity;

an installed user data describing installed users on the computer entity;

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a user settings data describing individual settings for at least one installed user on the computer entity; and

a back-up schedule data describing a back-up schedule for backing up data of said computer entity.

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